Pennsylvanians Age 13 and Older
Can Add Their Phone to the Fight

HARRISBURG - Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine and Acting Secretary of Education Noe Ortega today announced that, with parental or guardian permission, Pennsylvanians age 13 to 17 can now add their phone to the fight and download the COVID Alert PA app to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

"While the app has been available to Pennsylvanians 18 and older, we wanted to ensure more residents had access to these resources and can be notified if exposed to COVID-19," Dr. Levine said. "By expanding the age range, we can hopefully increase the number of individuals who download the app, increasing its effectiveness to help control the spread of this dangerous virus, especially in school settings. I encourage everyone to download COVID Alert PA and answer the call to wash your hands, social distance, and wear a mask so we can unite together against COVID-19."

COVID Alert PA is a free and voluntary mobile app developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health in partnership with NearForm, University of Pennsylvania and MIT Lincoln Laboratory using Apple and Google's Exposure Notification System. The app's features include an interactive COVID-19 symptom check-in, alerts for potential exposures to the virus, updates on the latest public health data about COVID-19 in PA and public health guidance for what to do when someone has a potential exposure to COVID-19.

In this new update, the Department of Health will share further data resources on the app to provide the most up to date COVID-19 county case counts and hospitalizations. The update will also include an information hub, where residents learn more about contact tracing, app compatibility with other states, and where to find a testing location and other assistance and benefits.

The state Department of Health is encouraging Pennsylvanians to download the app so if they test positive for COVID-19, they can then enter a unique six-digit code given to you by a case investigator. This

will allow individuals who might have been encountered in proximity and who have the app know that they have been exposed to COVID-19. They can then take important steps to protect themselves and others such as getting tested or quarantining. Most importantly, this will help cut the chain of COVID-19 transmission.

The app is also designed to ensure privacy of the user. It does not use GPS, location services or any movement or geographical information. It will never collect, transmit or store personal information. It is completely anonymous.

The app does collect user statistics such as the number of downloads or the symptom check-in demographics that people can voluntarily share. Since the launch on September 22, the Departments know:

- There have been 622,000 downloads onto smartphone devices.
- There were 326 positive cases who confirmed their positivity through the app, which generated 144 close-contact exposure alerts.
- Of those who received an exposure alert, 21 requested a call-back to speak with a trained contact tracer for further support.

The free app can be found in the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store by searching for "covid alert pa."